Once Upon A Time...

Children's Classics Retold in ASL

A Hans Christian Andersen Story

The Little Mermaid

BOOK HAS ACCOMPANYING VIDEO

Adapted by

The Editors of DawnSignPress

Illustrated by

Patricia Pearson

BOOK ONE

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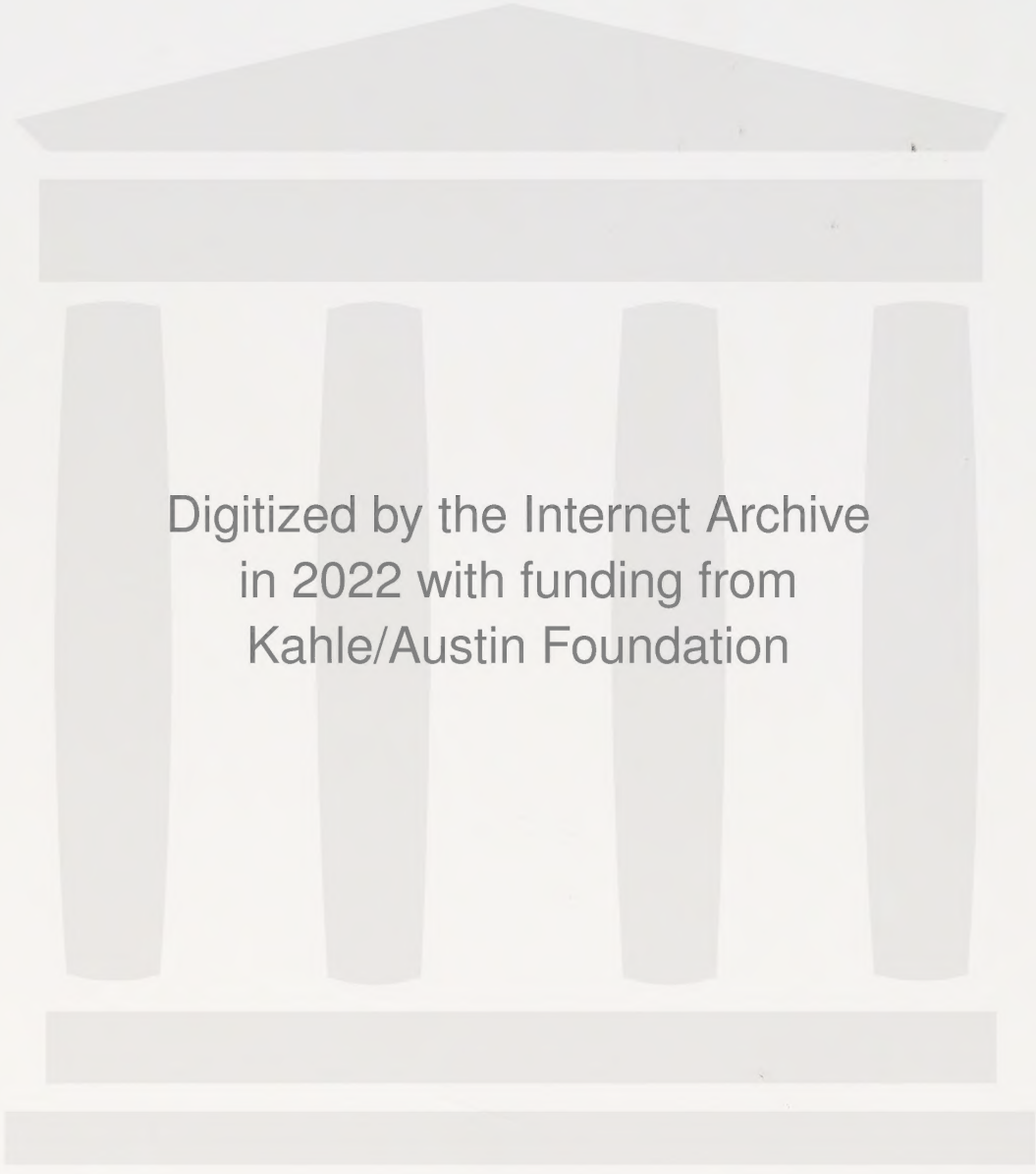
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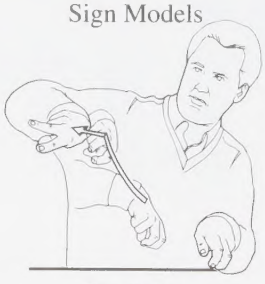

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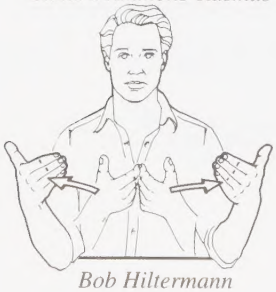

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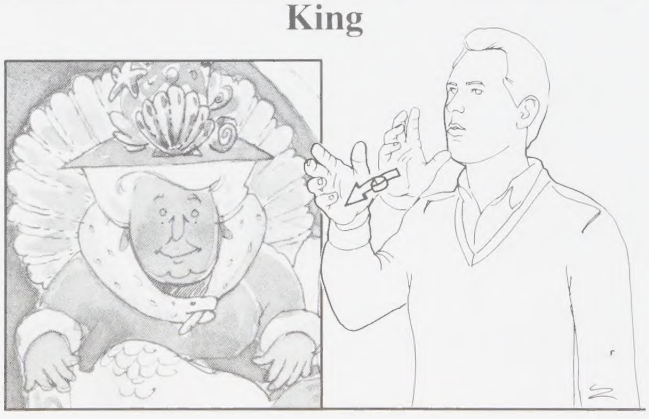
The Little Mermaid

A Hans Christian Andersen Story

CHARACTER SIGNS

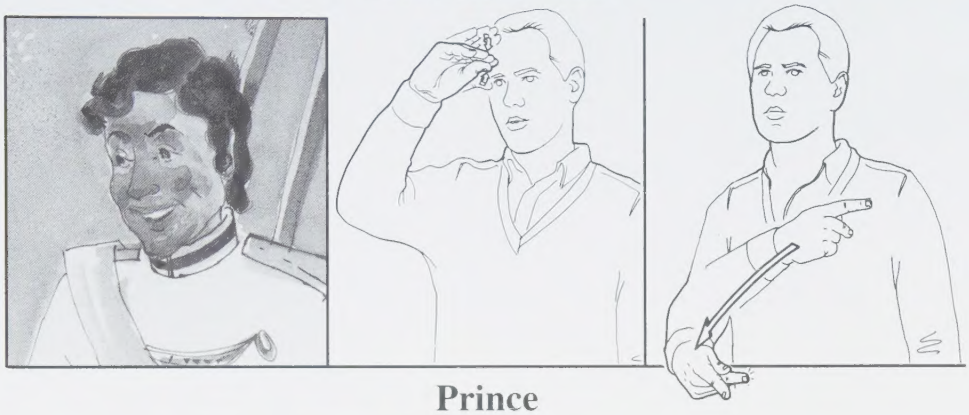
King



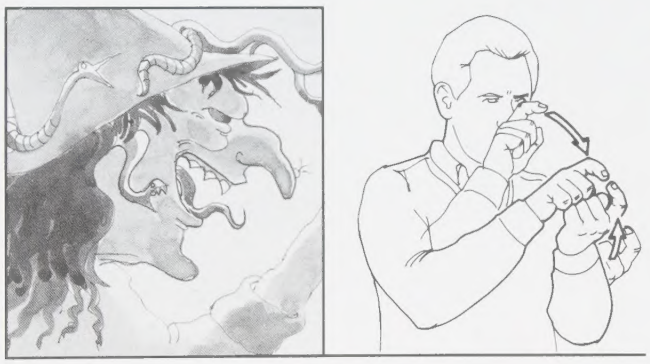
Grandmother

Sisters

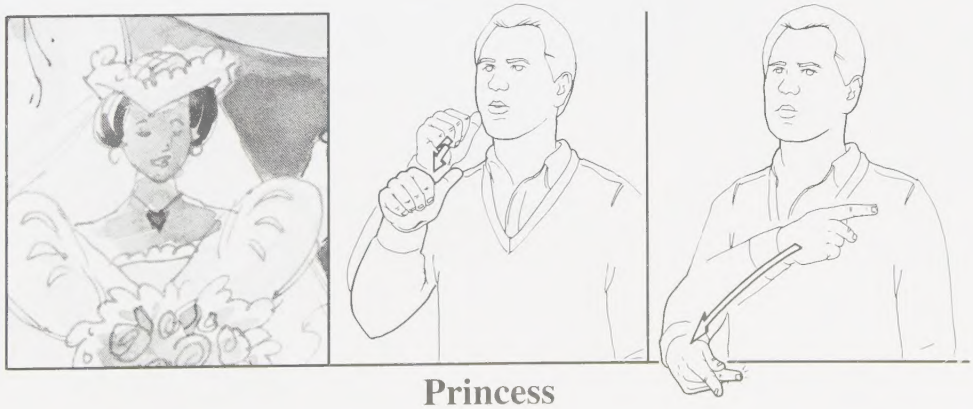
Little Mermaid



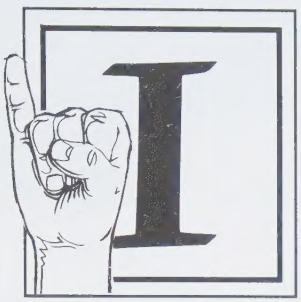
Prince



Sea Witch



Princess



n the ocean, far from the shore, the water was dark blue. Deep down, all different kinds of fishes swam around. The sea plants moved with the **current**. In the deepest part of the ocean, on its floor, stood a big castle where people lived.

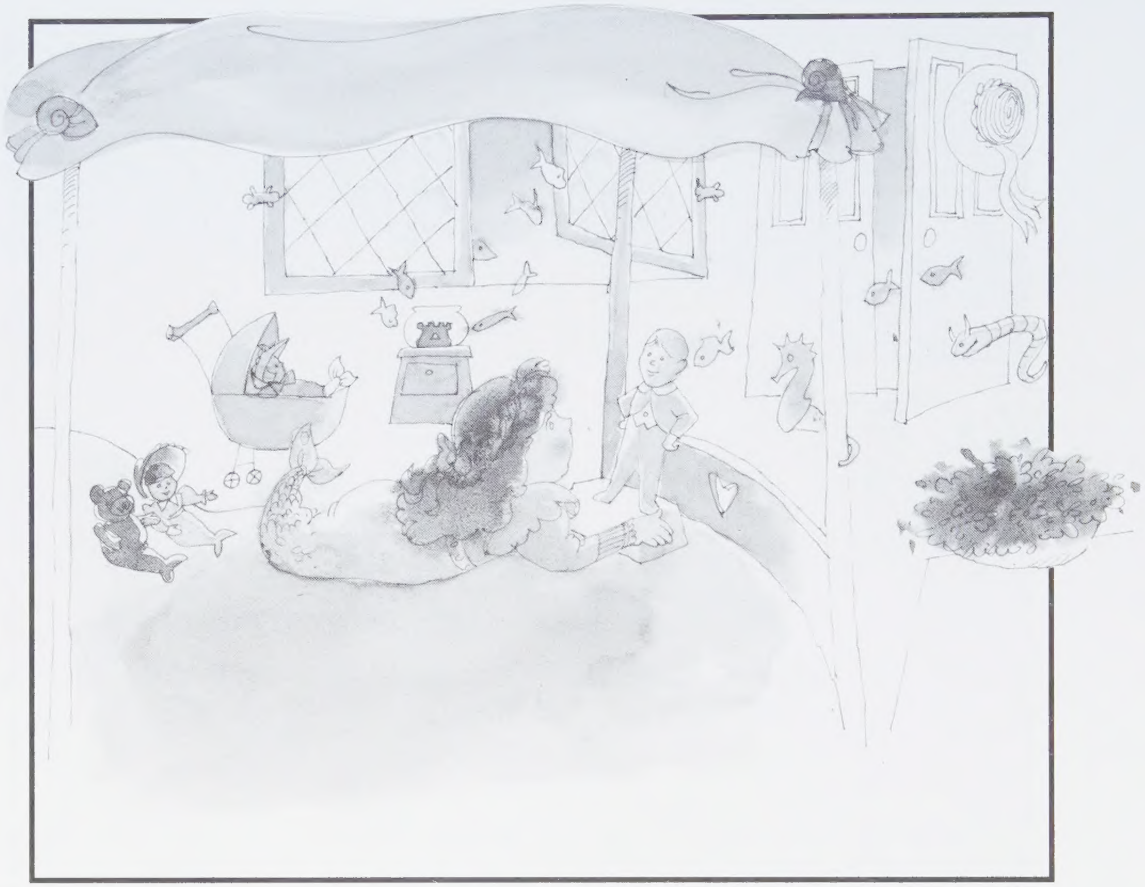
In the castle, a king sat on his throne. His mother sat beside him. She wore a huge, decorated **crown**. Although she looked like a queen, she was not the queen of the ocean **kingdom**. She was the king's mother.

The king had six daughters. Of all the daughters, the youngest one was the most beautiful princess.

The king's mother **took care of** and taught the six princesses.

The princesses were very different from the people who lived on land. The bottom halves of their bodies were like fish, and the top halves, above the waist, were like land people. They were called mermaids. It made them special.

The mermaids all lived together in the **huge** castle on the bottom of the sea. Inside the castle, there were beautiful **hallways** with **shining** floors and **enormous** windows. When you opened the windows, the fishes would swim around in the **palace**. It was not the same as on land where the birds would be afraid to go into people's homes. Here in the castle, when the family ate, the



mermaids would feed the fishes that visited them.

The six princesses played around the palace all day. When they went outside the castle, the colorful ocean was beautiful as well. When the wind blew, the waves rose, and the sea plants danced around them.

Each little princess had her own garden. The oldest princess grew flowers -- all different kinds of flowers. The next princess **collected** objects from **shipwrecks**. When things fell out from wrecked ships, she collected them for her room.

The youngest and most beautiful mermaid had a few things in her garden, too. She arranged many red flowers in a circle like the sun. Beside that, she had a **statue** of a young boy.

The little mermaid studied the statue of the nice looking boy. The boy was different from her. From the waist up, he looked the same. From the waist down, he had two legs! She thought that was very

odd. She had a fishtail, and the boy in the statue had two legs.

She asked her grandmother who explained that, up in the world on land, people were different from the mermaids in the ocean. Grandmother told her that, on land, there were beautiful birds.

"What is a bird?" asked the little princess.

The grandmother said, "Oh, you have never seen a bird before. It is similar to a fish, but these 'fishes' can sing." The princess was fascinated. She loved the story, so her grandmother would repeat it again and again.

Her grandmother also explained that, on land, there were many flowers. People could smell the flowers. She added, "You know here, underwater, we have flowers, but they do not have **scents**."

The grandmother continued to explain that, on land, there were people who talked. There were horses, other animals and towns.

The little mermaid listened. She thought about how much she

wanted to see the land. All of the six princesses wanted to go up and see the land. The grandmother told them that they had to wait until they were fifteen years old. They were still too young.

Each princess thought, "Oh, I hope the time will go fast."

The youngest princess had to wait the longest. She was the one who wanted to go the most, but she had to be the most **patient** and wait the longest.

Finally, it was time for the oldest princess to go see the land as she was now fifteen. She put on **make-up**. Then she swam toward the top, and her head **peeked above the surface** of the water. She saw a beautiful world.

After looking around, she returned to the castle. The other sisters, especially the youngest mermaid, started asking the oldest sister what she had seen.

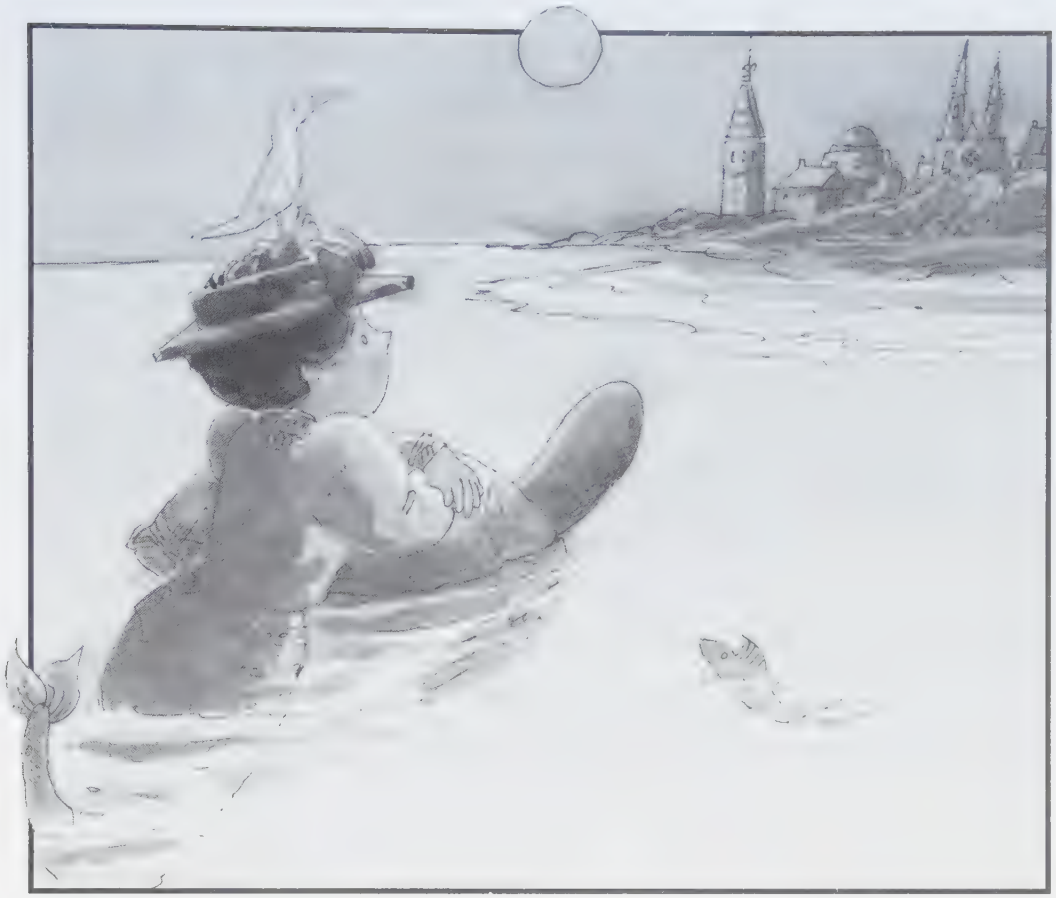
"What did the upper world look like?" her younger sisters all asked, "please tell us all about it."

She explained that she had seen a beautiful beach with white sand and a full moon shining above. There were **illuminated lights** from the city. She saw people riding on horses and in **buggies**. Everybody was talking. She told them that it was a fascinating and different world.

The youngest mermaid asked her oldest sister to tell the story again and again. The little mermaid was so **envious**. She wanted to see for herself, but she had to wait until she was fifteen.

When the next princess turned fifteen, she went up. When she came back, she explained what she had seen, too. She said that she had watched a **sunset**. She explained how beautiful and colorful the **sunrays** were. They were orange and red. She told how she had tried to chase the sunset. She swam toward the sunset, but, **all of a sudden**, the sun disappeared. It had became dark almost **instantly**.

Her sisters looked at her in **amazement**. They could not believe that something could be so beautiful.



The little mermaid again said that she **yearned** to see the land. But, no, she had to be patient until she was fifteen.

Then it was time for the third princess to go up. She was the most **daring** of all. When she came back, she explained in details.

She was so brave that she decided to swim up the river. She wanted to see the land up close. She saw children playing, swimming, and jumping in the water. As her head went above the surface of the water, she saw the children looking at her.

She became terrified. An animal growled at her, and she **ducked** underwater. When she went above the surface again, she looked and realized that it was a dog. She saw a town and cars. When she went back to her family, she described it all.

Then it was time for the fourth princess to go. She was very shy. She would not go close to the land. She stayed far back. She saw tiny ships and tiny sailboats because she was so far away. She also

saw city lights from afar. Then she went right back home. When she got back, she, too, told of her adventure.

When the fifth princess turned fifteen, she went up. It just so happened that her birthday was in the wintertime. So, when she went up, it was cold. She saw **icebergs**. She sat down on an iceberg and floated on the water. It was freezing and windy. The water was rough, and the waves were high. On the iceberg, she rocked and bounced. When she went back home, she explained everything.

The little mermaid listened carefully to all of her sisters. She wanted to see land so badly. She imagined what it would be like. Everybody told her that she had to be patient.

At long last, it was her fifteenth birthday. She put on make-up and clothes. She had a beautiful headband made of white lilies and a beautiful dress.

She swam very fast. When her head went above the water surface, she saw the world. Everything she had heard from her sisters became real.

She saw a boat in the water, and she swam toward it. She saw the sunset and the beautiful red and purple sunrays. She looked from the boat to the sun. She became **curious** about the sailboat and swam closer to it. Then she saw the sails go down.

The boat stopped. She saw that people were having a party. She swam closer.

There were some **fireworks**. The mermaid was **frightened** and **dove below the water level**. When she put her head up again, she saw fireworks in the sky and **sparkles** floating on the ocean.

The party continued on the boat. She saw that the party was for the prince. She looked at the prince, and he looked just like the statue in her room in the castle underwater! She was fascinated by this. She realized that it was the prince's fifteenth birthday -- the same as her own.

When the party was over, the crew raised the sails again. The

ship started to move away, and the little mermaid followed it.

All of a sudden, black clouds formed in the sky. There was a storm coming. Everyone on the ship yelled to pull the lines and the ropes. The boat was rocking up and down. The little mermaid continued to swim behind it.

There was lightening and thunder. It was raining hard, and a strong wind was blowing. The boat went up and down with the huge waves.

The **mast** fell. The sails were **destroyed**. Water **gushed** into the boat. The sailboat **cracked** in half and started to **sink**. All the people on the boat jumped into the ocean.

The little mermaid **searched** all over for the prince. She finally found him floating in the ocean. He was too tired to swim. The mermaid took hold of him and started swimming to shore. As she held him in her arms, she **fell in love**.

The next morning, as the **sun rose**, she continued swimming with her prince until they reached the beach.

When she laid him down, she kissed his forehead and **stared at** him. The prince was unconscious so he did not even know that she was there.

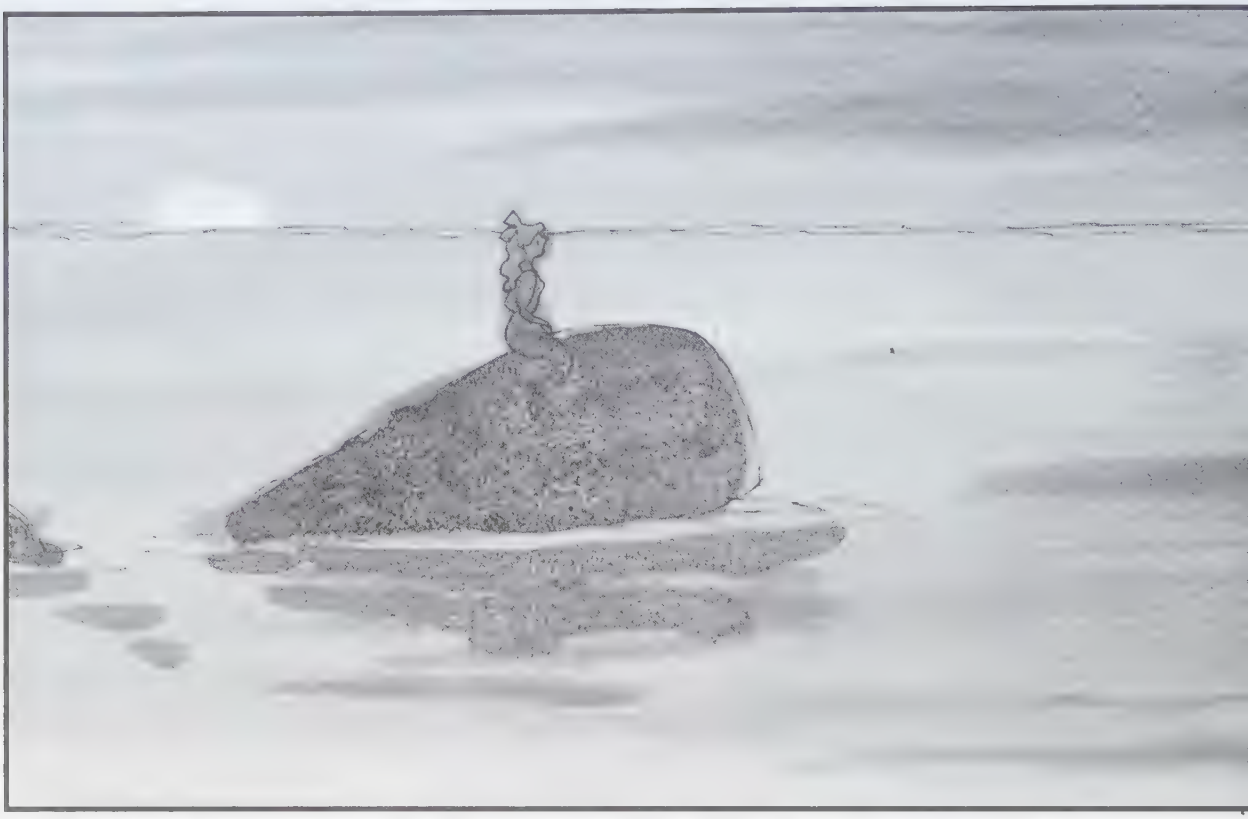
The mermaid saw a group of schoolgirls running toward the beach. She hid. When the little girls saw the prince asleep on the beach, they ran over and looked at him.

The little mermaid left and went back home. She was very sad because she wanted to be with the prince. Now she had to **separate** from the world of land and go back to her family.

All of her sisters asked her what had happened. She barely explained what she had seen. She was different from the other sisters who talked about everything wonderful they had seen.

The youngest princess did not want to talk about her visit to land. The grandmother asked her, "**What is the matter?**"

"Oh, nothing," said the little mermaid. She **held back her**



feelings for a week, but went back to the beach to look for her prince. She looked and searched.

She did not find him. Every day, she went back to the same place. She would wait near the rock for the prince, but he never came.

She grew more and more **depressed**. Her sisters asked, "What is the matter?" At last, the little mermaid explained everything that had happened. One of the princesses said, "I know where he lives. Do you want me to bring you there?"

"Yes, please show me," said the little mermaid. The two swam up to the top of the water. They looked out and saw a huge castle with a **drawbridge**. The sister pointed, "That is where he lives."

Every day, the little mermaid continued to look for the prince. Finally, she saw him, and she thought, "How can I talk with him?"

One day, she noticed a boat. There were men fishing. She heard them talking about how wonderful the prince was -- how he was

such a good boy. The little mermaid's heart fluttered even more. She thought more and more about how she could meet him.

When she went back to her world under water, she asked her grandmother, "How do people on land meet other people? How do they fall in love? If I brought the prince here, would he die?"

The grandmother explained, "It is different on land. People who live on land only live short lives. Inside their body, they have a spirit that lives on after their bodies die. As mermaids, we live for three hundred years. When we die, we become foam on the ocean. We do not have a spirit like people on land. We just **disintegrate** into the ocean."

The little mermaid said, "But I want to be with the prince." The grandmother said, "Well, that is not possible. There is only one way. You must join with the prince. When you meet him, the prince must fall in love with you. You must love him, too. That love can join your spirits together. Then you can become as one and live

with him."

The little princess said, "That is what I want. I want to live with the prince."

The grandmother said, "I am sorry, but I am afraid you cannot." The grandmother explained, "People on land have legs. They walk. You have a tail. You can not walk like people on land."

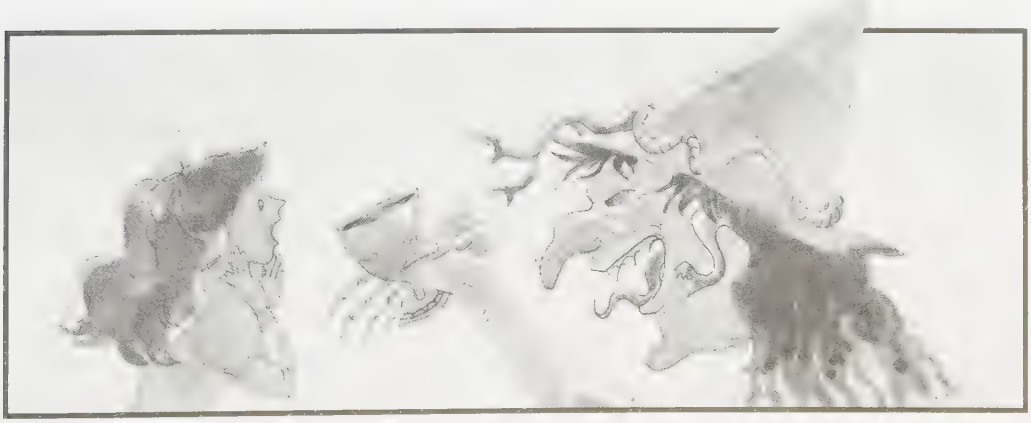
The little princess said, "Well, what am I going to do? I want to be with the prince." The grandmother said, "I am sorry. You cannot think like that."

The little mermaid was so depressed. She would do anything to get the prince to love her so she could share his spirit, and they could live together forever.

She thought and planned until, one day, she had an idea. She decided that she had to see the Sea Witch who **lived amongst** the **eels** and the **octopuses**. If she met the Sea Witch, she knew the Sea Witch could help her.

When her family was having a party, she took off and swam to where the Sea Witch lived. In that area, there was a **maelstrom**. You had to be very careful to get through. The water **whirled** around, and it was very hard to swim. When you neared that area, all kinds of eels and octopuses with long **tentacles** could grab on to your body. But the princess went anyway, and she finally arrived.

The Sea Witch said, "I know why you came to see me." The little mermaid answered, "Yes, I want to be with the prince **forever**."



The Sea Witch said, "You have to understand. The boy must love you more than he loves his own parents. He really has to love you. If that happens, you will get his love forever."

"I will give you a special **potion**," the Sea Witch told the little mermaid, "You drink it when you reach the land. The potion will make your tail **divide** into two legs."

The Sea Witch continued "For every step that you take, it will feel as if knives were sticking into your feet. It will be very painful."

"Because you have such a beautiful voice," the Sea Witch told the little mermaid, "you must pay me by giving me your voice." That would mean that the little mermaid could never talk again.

The Sea Witch prepared the potion and took the girl's voice.

The little mermaid swam away with the potion. She thought about what she would do if she could not talk to her family. So she decided to swim to the beach without saying good-bye.

When she arrived, she sat down. She waited until the next morning to drink the **magic** potion. She felt such pain as her tail **split** and became two legs. But she was so happy that she relaxed and slept all morning.

The prince was walking along the beach and noticed the mermaid lying on the sand. He carried her into his castle. They looked into each other's eyes. The mermaid thought, "Oh, I want to be with this prince so badly."

The prince talked to the little mermaid, but she could not answer back. So she started to **gesture**. The prince could not understand what was wrong. He knew that she might be sick. He decided that he would take care of her and give her beautiful clothes because she did not have any.

She had graceful legs and walked so **daintily**. But, every time she walked, it felt as if she were walking on sharp knives. She withstood the pain.

The prince's family was eating, and she went to join them. She

sat there in silence because she could not speak. Everybody talked and asked her questions, but she could only **nod in agreement**.

After dinner, they had a dance. The little mermaid sat there and decided to join in the fun. She was an **incredible** dancer! She was graceful. She did **pirouettes**. Of course, she was in pain while dancing. She did not have a voice, but she expressed herself through dancing. Everyone **watched in awe**.

The prince and the mermaid felt united, and they spent many, many hours together. The prince wanted the girl to sleep outside of his room on a pillow. She was the only one that he had ever permitted to do that. They felt so close to each other.

The mermaid thought, "We are so close. Maybe he will love me. Then we will be together forever." That was her only dream.

The prince took her everywhere. They developed a close relationship. They spent all of their time together.

The prince told her that he was fond of her. The mermaid was so excited. Of course, she could not express how she felt.

One day, there was an **announcement** from a nearby kingdom. The ruler's daughter was ready to marry. The royal family wanted the prince to meet this princess.

The mermaid was shocked. The Prince assured her, "Oh, do not worry. I will just go. To tell the truth, I still dream about the girl I saw on the beach. I remember that someone had rescued me. When I woke up, I saw that girl. I have not seen her again. I still look for her. She looked a little like you."

The little mermaid became hopeful. "I know the girl is me," thought the little mermaid, but she could not tell the prince.

They continued to spend all of their time together.

One day, there was another announcement. This time, the royal family wanted to arrange a marriage with their princess and the prince. "I am sure it is nothing. You can come with me," the Prince told the little mermaid. They set out by boat to the neighboring

country for the prince to meet the princess.

"The water is very dangerous. You have to be careful," warned the Prince. The mermaid nodded. She already knew, of course, because she had experiences of living deep in the ocean.

When the boat arrived at the huge kingdom, they saw a **celebration** in progress. They entered the castle over a drawbridge.

They looked for the girl whom the prince was going to marry.

She was at a special school learning to become a queen. She had not arrived at the celebration yet. Later that evening, during the **banquet**, the girl had finally **appeared**.

As she walked into the room, the prince saw her. He realized that she was the girl that he saw on the beach. He became exhilarated. She was the first schoolgirl who had noticed the prince on the beach. The little mermaid was disappointed.

"Oh, I am so happy," the Prince told the little mermaid, "She is the girl in my dream." Right away, the girl and the prince joined together. He introduced the girl to the little mermaid.

The little mermaid was **devastated**. She realized that it meant that her dream of a life with the prince would be gone forever. She wanted to join with his soul, but that would not be possible now.

Although she was disappointed, she was happy for the prince. She knew that he would love his new princess.

The two lovers planned their marriage. It was to be a large wedding celebration.

The prince did not forget the mermaid. He wanted her to be a part of the celebration with his new bride.

The little mermaid remembered what the Sea Witch told her. If she did not marry the prince, she would die and become part of the ocean. She knew there was no other way.

After the wedding, the prince, his wife, and the little mermaid got into the boat to return home. The little mermaid thought, "Any time now, I will be gone."

In the water, she noticed her sister waving to her. Her sister said,

"You can save yourself. The Sea Witch told me that if you **stab** the prince and kill him, you will go back to being a mermaid." The sister begged the little mermaid to do that.

She gave the little mermaid a special knife. The little mermaid took it.

She walked into the prince's bedroom. The prince was asleep. As she picked up the knife to stab him, she realized that she could not kill him. She loved him too much. She threw down the knife and left the room.

The boat continued to sail. As the little mermaid looked at the **glistening** stars in the sky and down at the water, she started to feel **dizzy** and sick. She **plunged into** the water. As she **floundered** and floated in the water, she knew that she must be ready to die. But, she was still alive.

Her body **transformed** into air bubbles and drifted into the wind. She floated to join the other air bubbles as they danced in the

breeze. She **danced gleefully** to the tune of the wind as if she were enjoying every moment. Then she asked one of the air bubbles how she got there.

While they floated, the air bubble explained, "Here is where you belong. You are a wonderful mermaid. Your life will continue for three hundred years. After that, the wind will carry you to **heaven** to join God's kingdom. You knew how to give love. You would not kill. In return for your goodness, you will continue to float and dance everywhere with the wind."

Today, when you stand on the beach, looking out at the ocean and feeling the seabreeze, remember that it is the little mermaid's eternal wind.

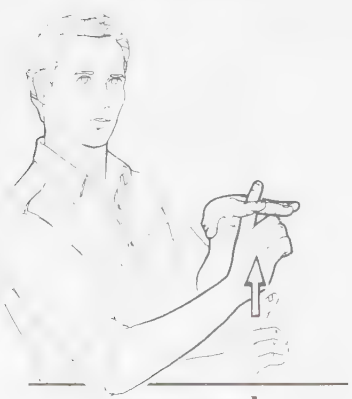
The End

GLOSSARY

all of a sudden

amazement

announcement



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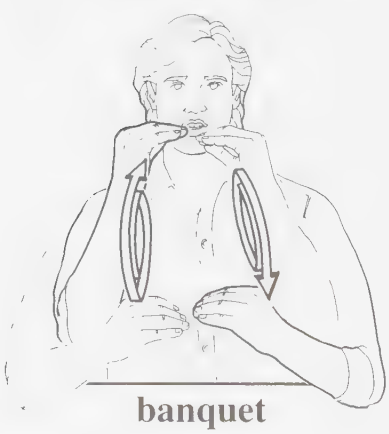


banquet

breeze

buggies

celebration

collected

cracked

crown

curious

current

daintily

danced gleefully

daring

depressed

destroyed

devastated

disintegrate

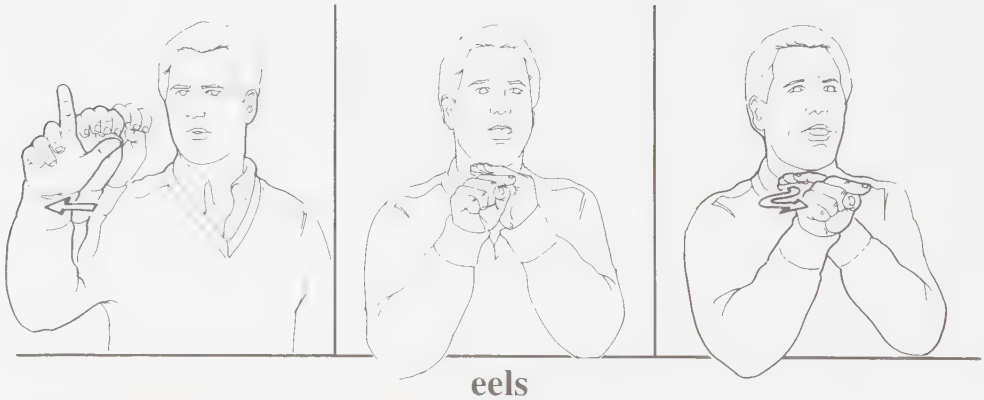
divide

dizzy

dove below the water level

drawbridge

ducked



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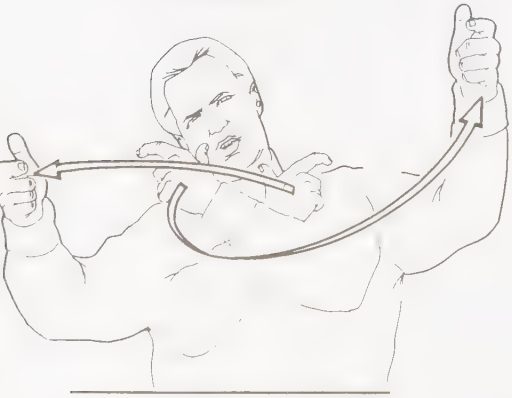
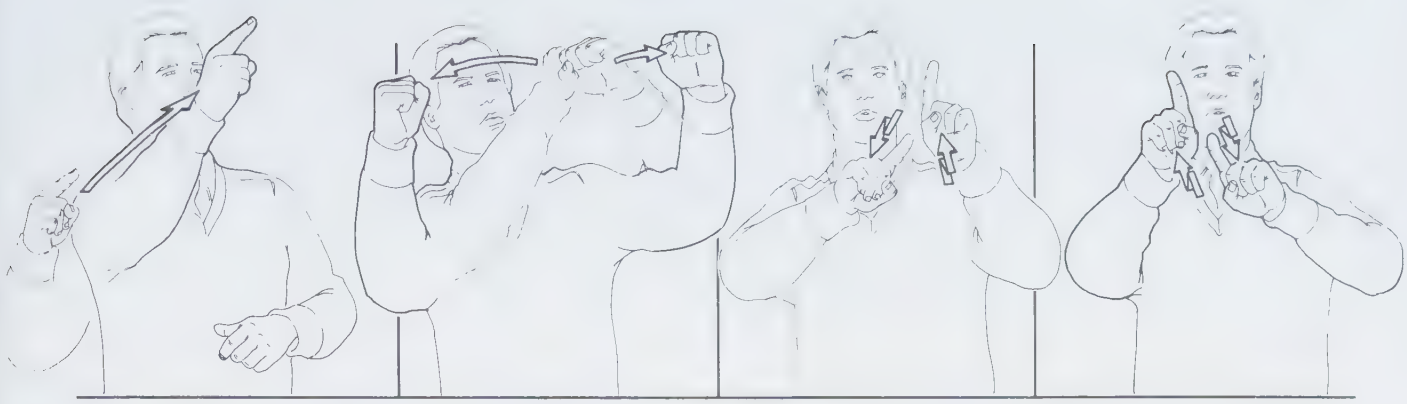


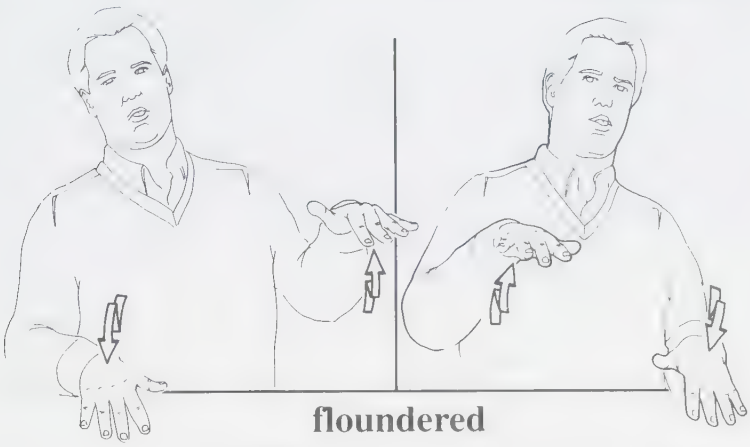
enormous

envious

fell in love



fireworks



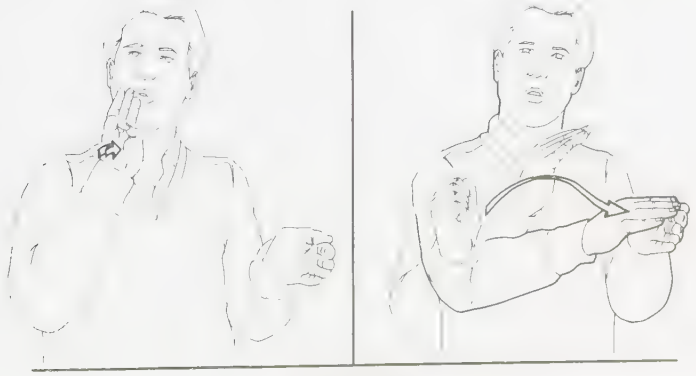
floundered

forever

frightened

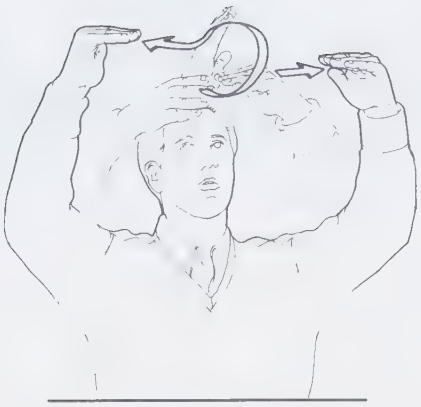
gesture

glistening



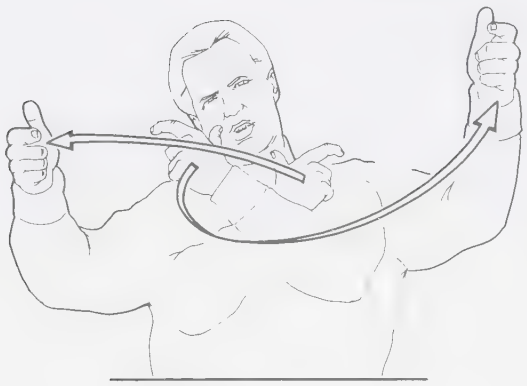
gushed

hallways

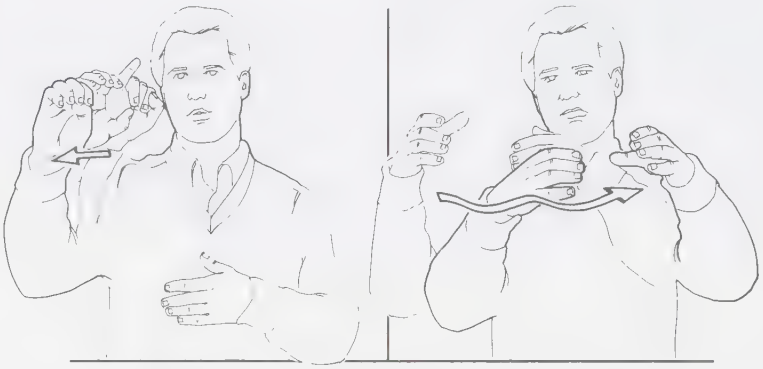


heaven

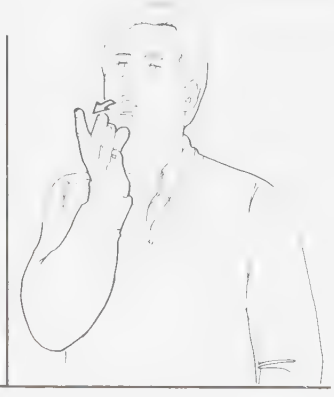
held back her feelings



huge



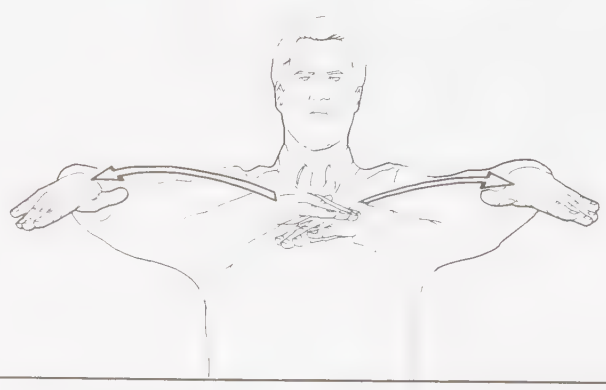
icebergs



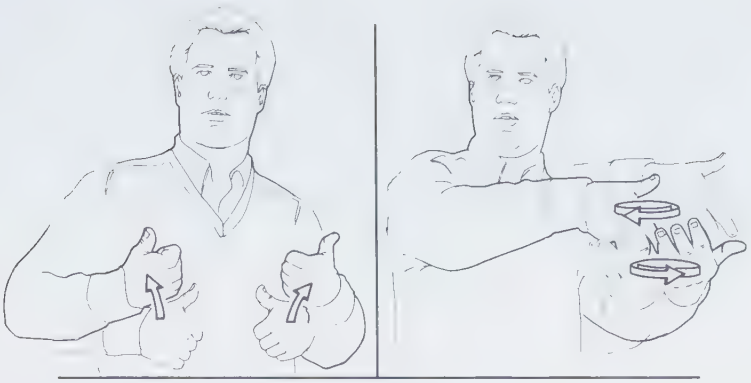
illuminated lights

incredible

instantly



kingdom

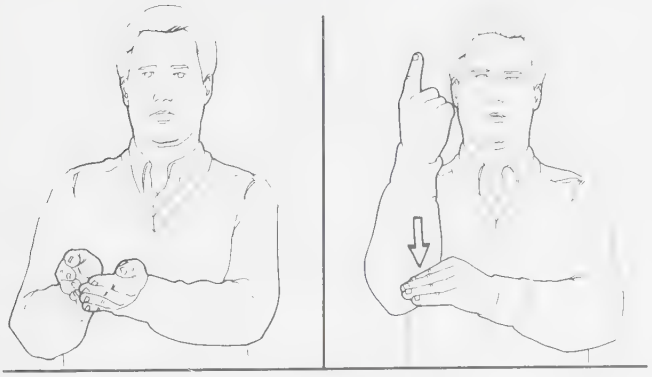


lived amongst

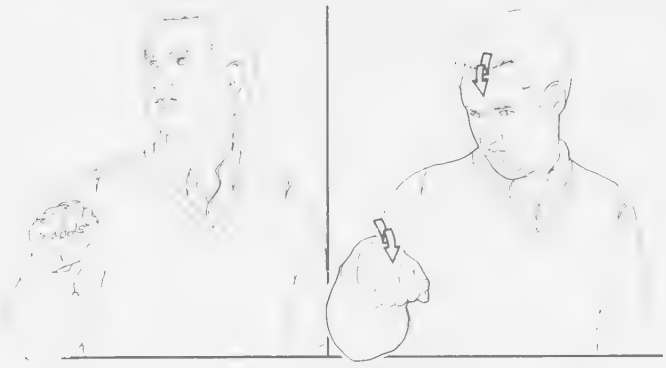
maelstrom

magic

make-up



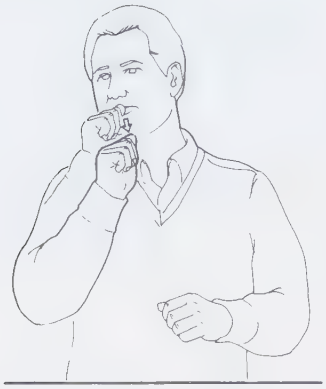
mast



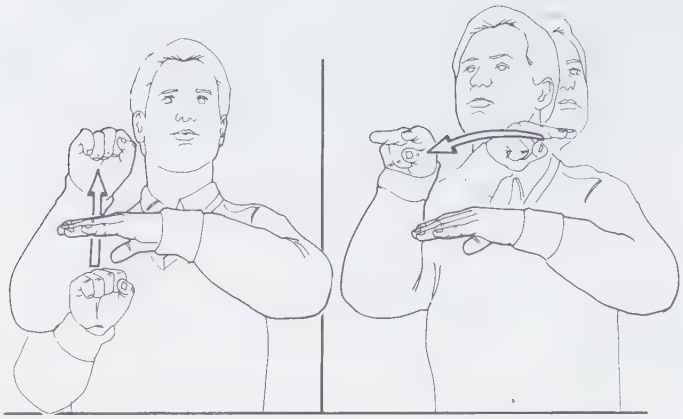
nod in agreement

octopuses

palace



patient



peeked above the surface

pirouettes

plunged into

potion

scents

searched

separate

shining

shipwrecks

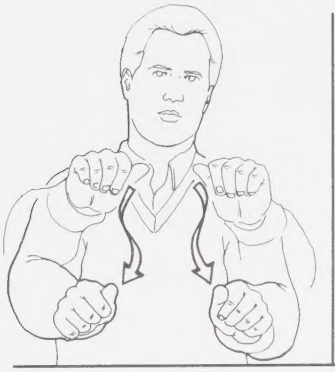
sink

sparkles

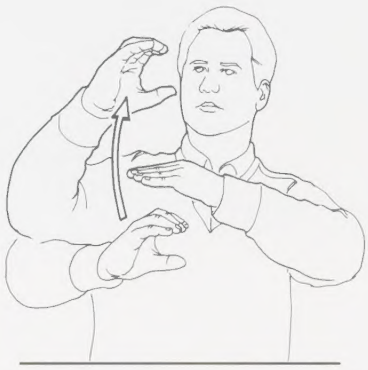
split

stab

stared at

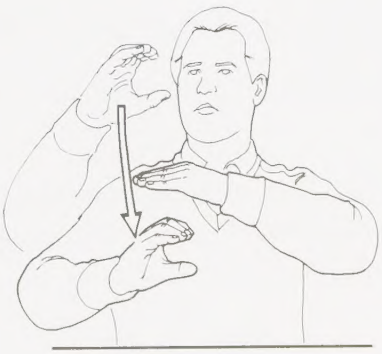


statue



sun rose

sunrays



sunset

tentacles

took care of

transformed

watched in awe

What's the matter?

whirled

yearned

How Can Schoolteachers and Parents Use

Once Upon A Time...

Children's Classics Retold in American Sign Language

in classrooms or at home?

Rationale:

Deaf children need to hear (or see!) stories or have prior experiences before they achieve reading skills. The ***Once Upon A Time*** set of six videotapes & storybooks is designed to support teachers and parents who wish to provide deaf children with a unique learning approach.

How to Use the Videotape and Storybook:

1. Watch the videotape with your child.
2. Go over the videotape and pause as necessary, seeing that your child understands the signs and their meanings. Ask your child questions about the plot, characters and setting.
3. Have your child retell the story in her or his own words.
4. If your child misses some details, you should supply details by going over the videotape again.
5. Read the storybook together.
6. Discuss the glossary and character signs.
7. Watch the videotape as you read the storybook, making sure your child makes associations between American Sign Language and English.
8. Read storybook and retell in American Sign Language.
9. If your child is advanced, she or he can retell the story in writing, draw the story, or act out the story.

If teachers and parents have more tips on how to use *Once Upon A Time* series, we welcome feedback and suggestions!

DAWNSIGNPRESS

6130 Nancy Ridge Drive ● San Diego, CA 92121 ● Voice/TTY: (858) 625-0600 ● Fax: (858) 625-2336 ● Toll Free: 1-800-549-5350 ● www.dawnsign.com

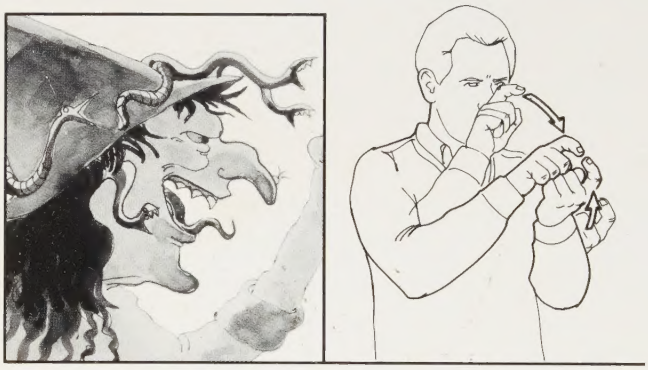
BOOK HAS ACCOMPANYING VIDEO

0 0000 00023631 9

A Hans Christian Andersen Story

The Little Mermaid

This is an original American Sign Language adaptation of a beloved children's classic. This favorite fairy tale is recited in ASL on videotape and adapted into English in this illustrated storybook, including a unique glossary and a list of character signs.



Sea Witch

The series, ***Once Upon A Time...*** **Children's Classics Retold in American Sign Language,** is a creative response to the ever-increasing demand for ASL-English materials. It combines the visual excitement of ASL storytelling with enchanting literature, in a new format sure to captivate both children and adults.

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